

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A method for producing a cellulose fiber product resistant to biological degradation which comprises:

providing a cellulose fiber derived from wood that has been at least partially purified by a chemical pulping process;

treating the fiber so that it contains a biocidally effective amount of 0.1-2.0% by weight of dry fiber of a biocidal composition selected from the group consisting of didecyldimethylammonium chloride, didecyldimethylammonium bromide and mixtures thereof, the fiber also being treated with a water soluble copper salt to provide 0.01-0.25% of copper based on the weight of dry fiber; and

drying the treated fiber that is resistant to fiber length degradation during refining.

9-21. (Canceled)

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